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Support MAMBO, Do your Mother's Day shopping in the main street- and save \$\$\$\$\$

ORANJESTAD -- Tomorrow is Mother's Day and as usual MAMBO - the organization representing main street businesses - has organized a tremendous shopping day for all those who still have to buy that special present for the Queen of the House. Today the stores will stay open until 8:00 p.m. offering shoppers the latest in fashion at bargain prices. There will also be various stands with flowers and bouquet arrangements, especially for Mother's Day, along with the customary entertain-



ment, for kids and grown-ups. MAMBO emphasize that the businesses in the main street are ALIVE with a lot of special offers. It IS the biggest shopping center of all Aruba with the largest collection of goods for all ages and tastes. There are 120 businesses awaiting customers with great enthusiasm, eager to give them the best service, while helping to choose that special gift for MOM.

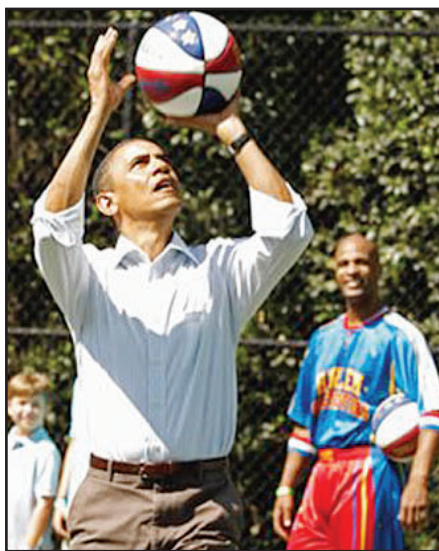
MAMBO kindly ask the

public to have patience with the construction works in the main street. This is necessary for the beautification and modernization of area to offer all islanders and visitors a better and more pleasant shopping atmosphere.

MAMBO would like to extend its heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone for their support of the main street businesses during the construction these past months. "We are all eagerly anticipating the inauguration of a more beautiful and thriving shopping center, with better service to one and all," commented a MAMBO spokesperson.

MAMBO wishes all mothers on Aruba a Happy Mother's Day together with their family members and friends.

Pals Obama and Clooney shoot hoops in LA



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A day after raking in \$15 million dollars at a fundraiser hosted by George Clooney, President Barack Obama's thriving rapport with his Oscar-winning buddy, took a new turn, on the basketball court.

The US commander-in-chief, and the screen heartthrob



and activist dubbed the celebrity-in-chief, yesterday enjoyed an early morning game of hoops in Los Angeles, before Obama headed to Nevada to cap a two-day west coast swing.

In a match-up of superheroes, Clooney, who once played Batman, was joined by Spiderman actor Tobey Maguire, and members of Obama's traveling staff at a recreation center near the president's Beverly Hills

hotel, officials said.

Obama is a passionate basketball fan, and sometimes plays at weekends in Washington with cabinet members and friends.

He also famously used to shoot hoops as a good luck tradition early in the mornings on key election days during his race for the Democratic nomination against Hillary Clinton in 2008.

Continued on page 6

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The Morning News team wishes all mother on Aruba a

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Aruban Coach Jeff Nedd receives prestigious Coach Diploma



Aruba's well-known boxing coach, Aruba's own Jeffrey Nedd has recently become the recipient of the international diploma in coaching. Several months ago Nedd began the international coaching course. This, reportedly, is a very intensive course requiring him to live abroad for several months. Finally, after much preparation, Nedd succeeded in obtaining the diploma officially certified by the International Olympic Committee.

The International Coaching Enrichment Certification Program welcomed 28 members of then 2012 group to the city of Lausanne, Switzerland. The

fourth edition of the ICEP program was a collaborative effort between the American Olympic Committee and the University of Delaware International Olympic Committee. This group included coaches from five different continents, 28 countries and ten sports.

The certification diploma consisted of lectures, presentations made by the participants, and work in teams.

The program consisted of four modules, which include practice sessions with a national coach or a collegial American team.

The first three modules of the program were offered in

the USA, while the fourth module took place at another destination. At the end of the modules, the participants had to make a presentation to the Academic Board of ICEP at their primary IOC site in Lausanne. Director of Sports of IOC, Christohe Dubi, was the keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony. All 28 participants received their diploma, which included Aruba's Jeffrey Nedd!

The 2012 coach class included coaches from American Samoa, Antigua and Barbuda, ARUBA, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize and Herzegovina, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Guam, Japan, Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Micronesia, Namibia, Pakistan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tanzania.

The Aruba Olympic Committee congratulates Jeff Nedd with his diploma in International Coaching Enrichment Certification Program. Aruba is proud to have another professional sports trainer! The Morning News too is very proud of Jeff Nedd...congratulations, Jeff!

City Center changes slowly taking shape



ORANJESTAD -- If all goes well, come December 2012, Aruba should have a city center with a completely new look. According to the government, a major part of the renovation of the commercial center is nearing completion. The heavy work of digging into the ground to create the infrastructure that will avoid future annoying digging to repair cables of the utility companies has been completed. In the new system they have created manholes every 100 meters where workers can get in and repair whatever problem that could occur in the future.

The Public Works Department (DOW) has begun work in the Havenstraat and behind the former DOW building to build the foundation for the streetcar route. This is one of the last phases of the city center renovation for Oranjestad.

Motorists and pedestrians are kindly requested to be patient about all the inconveniences that this renovation program has caused and is causing. Change always brings resistance and uncomfortable situations, but we can rest assured that the changes will be welcomed once the work is completed, according to the government.

The next phase of the work in the city center, according to DOW is the installation of the streetcar rails. They will begin installing the straight rails first. The curved rails are on their way to Aruba. Together with the help of experts the contractor will be installing 80 meters of rails per day on the straight route, which will be followed by the pouring of concrete between the rails to level the ground on the streetcar route. This work is scheduled to begin this very month. The curved rails apparently will require much more work and time.

The Infra-Team is currently working on the specifications for the streetcars so that the Public Tender can be issued. Because there are no local companies working in this realm, the documentation must be sent to international concerns. It is estimated that by the beginning of August the winner of the Public Tender should be known to us. The government is intent on inaugurating the first streetcar and the renovated city center in the first half of December of this year. While the other two streetcars are expected by February 2013.

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Suriname's Bouterse murder trial adjourns

A Suriname court martial has adjourned the trial of President Desi Bouterse and 24 others accused of involvement in the so-called 1982 December murders of 15 political opponents.

The trial will not resume until a ruling determines whether a recently passed law granting the defendants amnesty complies with the country's constitution.

The court partial has put the question to a Judge Advo-



cate representing the Public Prosecutor. The matter will

also be submitted to a constitutional court that is yet to be created.

The court martial will only proceed with the trial once a verdict has been issued regarding the constitutionality of the amnesty law. The ruling can't be appealed.

The move means the trial could be suspended for several years. The creation of a constitutional tribunal has been debated for decades.

Dutch Minister gives Aruba High Marks



ORANJESTAD -- During his recent visit to Aruba, Dutch demisionary Minister of Defense, Hans Hillen met with the young people in the government's Social Formation Program. The students were active in their apprenticeship at the Aruba Ports Authority.

During a brief interview with Hillen, he indicated that he considers the program a tremendous opportunity for our young people. He said that this type of program will make a major change in the lives of these young people, which is good for Aruba and especially good for the young people.

He later met with the second group of young men to begin the program at the Marine Camp. At the Marine Camp these youngsters have a heavy physical regimen to complete.

In Hillen's words: "...I believe that Aruba is doing a good job with this (program) and I am grateful to the Marine Camp for their contribution to this excellent formation."

According to Hillen, they intend to evaluate the pro-



gram after two years to determine whether it can be improved. He reported that a similar program exists in Curacao.

The Dutch Minister is convinced that Aruba can play an important role in the future development of Curacao and St. Maarten. Aruba, he claims, can serve as a good example. He expressed satisfaction for the fact that Holland and Aruba are working closely together to amplify and provide more substance to the Dutch Kingdom. Aruba stands to benefit and Holland likewise will benefit from the cooperation that exists, according to Hillen.



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Kibrahacha 60+ enjoy their Manchebo Mother's Day



Mother of the Year Petronella Franken AKA Chichi



Volunteer Mother of the Year Mellie de Ruijter

as his guests, for a special Mother's Day luncheon celebration.

The management and staff of the Manchebo cheerfully maintain this delightful tradition, welcoming the more than 200 moms and dads for a singular celebration each year, to show their appreciation for all these retirees have done for their families and community.

There was wonderful entertainment from Nelson Sprok on the Caha di Orgal, Lidwina Booi sang, and volunteers Mellie and Agneth brought a bit of old Holland to the day.

Head staffer Femke Fingal and Kibrahacha Director Diana Uchtmann were proud to name the very same Mellie de Ruijter as the Volunteer Mom of the Year and a drawing revealed Petronella Franken, better known as Chi-Chi, as the Kibrahacha 60+ Mama of the Year. Both received lovely bouquets and special attention during this delightful day of honoring some very island moms.

by Rosalie Klein

Long before he passed on, the famous island hotelier Ike Cohen began a tradition at his Manchebo/Best Western Resort of welcoming the members of Club Kibrahacha 60+, a social and activity center for the elderly, to the Manchebo pavilion



Gold Coast introduces a new way to enjoy "a home away from home"- no purchase necessary

Aruba's newest gated community, Gold Coast, has initiated a rental plan offering a very attractive and economical option for vacation accommodations, particularly, but not only for families.

Gold Coast co-owner Myrine and her sales and rental staff welcome event planners and real estate agents to a pool side cocktail hour on Wednesday evening, May 9, to acquaint them with the many amenities of Gold Coast and the new program as well as its ideal set up as a wedding venue.

Kimberly Mathilde manages the rental program, and



Myrine Croes with Mirto Granadillo



Kitchen in the 3 bedroom town house

agents toured four beautiful properties of varying size from one bedroom condominiums to three and four bedroom townhouses and villas, all elegantly decorated and equipped with full, modern kitchens. These units are currently available for rent, at rates competitive to a hotel, without the necessity of renting multiple rooms; a real consideration when traveling with kids. It did not escape the agents notice that all master bedrooms have their own private master bath.

A two-bedroom townhouse over a high demand holiday



Master Bedroom



Gold Coast Sales and Rental Staff welcome you

like July 4 would cost only \$2030 for a week, comparable or far less than renting two rooms at an equally luxurious resort; a full kitchen can be stocked for breakfast and casual meals in. The facility boasts two lovely pool decks with community barbecues at present, another on the way, and the tennis courts are nearly done.

"Gold Coast also offers assistance to arrange babysitters, pre-arrival shopping to stock the kitchen, housekeepers, and airport pickup, among typical concierge services of restaurant or car rental reservations,"

pointed out General Manager Marietta Ras. "We think summer and holiday travelers, which are usually families with children, will find our community most welcoming and a perfect fit."

Detailed information with full layouts of the entire project and the various accommodations, a listing of all amenities and online booking can be found at: <http://www.goldcoastaruba.com/> or call 586-2200 for a friendly tour of the facility.

by Rosalie Klein

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US seizes \$1.5 million from Chinese counterfeiters

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US authorities have seized \$1.5 million worth of proceeds from counterfeit goods made in China and sold online in the United States, Justice Department officials said yesterday.

The probe seized funds from interbank accounts and six money service business accounts, according to US officials, who also said three domain names where the counterfeit goods -- sports apparel and jerseys -- were being sold had been taken down.

The move was the latest effort to target commercial intellectual property crime on the Internet, as part of the US government's "Operation In Our Sites," officials said.

"To date, 761 domain names of websites used in the sale and distribution of counterfeit goods and illegal copyrighted works have been seized as a result of Operation In Our Sites," the Justice Department said in a statement.

The operation, officials said, had in a matter of weeks, seized more than \$2.4 million in proceeds from individuals overseas who are "preying on the American economy."

The seizures "are another step forward in our efforts to disrupt and disable those engaged in intellectual property crime," said Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer.

"By seizing the domain names and profits of online counterfeit goods operations, we are protecting consumers and sending a message to criminals that we will use every tool at our disposal to stop them," Breuer said.

Defence: 80 years for Charles Taylor would be 'excessive'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Lawyers defending convicted Liberian warlord Charles Taylor yesterday sought a lesser sentence than the 80 years suggested by the prosecution, which they said was "excessive."

"The 80-year sentence as advocated by the prosecution is manifestly disproportionate and excessive; it is not justified," the former Liberian president's lawyers said in papers filed before Sierra Leone's UN-backed court.

"The suggestion (that) for Mr Taylor, the war in Sierra Leone would not have happened the way it did is an outright fallacy, or wild speculation at best," they added in a document made public by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Prosecutors and the defence will present their arguments to the court, based just outside The Hague, next week. Taylor, once one of the most powerful men in west Africa, will be sentenced on May 30.

Taylor, 64, was found guilty

last month of helping Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels wage a terror campaign during a civil war that claimed 120,000 lives between 1991 and 2001.

In the first judgement against an ex-head of state by a world court since the World War II Nuremberg trials, he was convicted on all 11 counts including acts of terrorism, murder and rape committed by the rebels, who paid him for arms with diamonds mined by slave labour.

Secret Service finally interviews key Colombian prostitute

WASHINGTON -- Almost a month afterward, the Secret Service has finally interviewed the Colombian prostitute at the heart of the scandal that has cost eight agency employees their jobs.

Dania Londono Suarez met voluntarily with investigators at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, agency spokesman Edwin Donovan said. After her complaint about not being paid for sex brought the scandal into the open, she dropped out of sight. She later emerged to give

media interviews, but investigators still could not reach her.

Donovan said that more than 200 people, including most of the women involved, have been interviewed, and that the investigation was nearly finished.

Londono mysteriously disappeared days after the incident and could not be reached by investigators. She said she works as a prostitute in Colombia, catering to foreigners. After leaving Colombia she spent some time in Dubai before going to Madrid.

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Indonesian crews find 12 bodies in Russia jet crash

CIJERUK (AFP) - Indonesian rescuers yesterday found the bodies of 12 of the people killed when their Russian jet crashed into the face of a mountain during a sales flight.

Questions mounted over how the twin-engine Sukhoi Superjet 100, a new passenger plane with a veteran pilot at the controls, crashed into Mount Salak, a dormant volcano well-known to pilots as a peril.

Rescuers struggled to reach the jungly site on the face of the mountain, using climbing equipment to ascend the near-vertical slope where bodies and debris were scattered.

"Today we reached the crash site... and we found 12 victims and they were all dead. We will continue the evacuation process," said Daryatmo, head of the national search and rescue agency, who goes by one name.

"I still don't know the condition of the bodies, but we haven't been able to evacuate them. The bodies are still in body bags," he told reporters in

Jakarta.

Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oni Junianto, who was helping to oversee the rescue effort, told AFP that the bodies were identifiable.

"There are no signs they were burnt," he said.

A rescuer returning from the site said he witnessed haunting scenes of torn bodies and limbs that were put inside body bags.

Rescue officials postponed the evacuation operation in the evening as the weather worsened, saying they would try and fly the bodies in by helicopter this morning.

"If not, we will evacuate by land," Colonel Anton Mukti Putranto, who is helping lead the evacuation, said in Cijeruk village.

Authorities in Jakarta have conducted DNA tests on relatives to proceed with the identification process.

The difficult terrain, which most days is shrouded in thick fog, has been an extreme challenge to the searchers and

stopped helicopters from getting close to the crash site, which is at an elevation of 5,900 feet (1,800 meters).

All aboard the aircraft were killed, authorities said Thursday, a day after the plane disappeared from radar screens during a promotional flight that was meant to spur international sales of Russia's first post-Soviet civilian jet.

The company representing Sukhoi in Indonesia, Trimarga Rekatama, originally said 50 passengers were on board but revised the number down to 45. Local rescue officials said the plane was carrying 46 people.

The passenger aircraft descended from 10,000 feet to 6,000 feet before slamming into Mount Salak, which juts 7,200 feet into the sky south of Jakarta, authorities said.

Controversy swirled over why the 57-year-old, vastly experienced Russian captain descended so low over mountainous terrain.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Niemeyer, 104, says he wants to leave hospital

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer wants to leave hospital "as soon as possible" to resume work as his doctor said yesterday that the 104-year-old's condition remains "stable."

"I can't wait to go back home to work," the star architect told a leading website IG in a telephone message transcribed Thursday by his grandson, photographer Kadu Niemeyer.

Niemeyer, who was admitted to Rio's Samaritano hospital 10 days ago for treatment of pneumonia, gets daily visits from his 66-year-old wife Vera and his grandson.

"I am fine but I want to be discharged as soon as possible to take care of my projects," his grandson told IG on his behalf, referring to a new Rio steakhouse and the launch of a new edition of the magazine 'Our Way.'

Pals Obama and Clooney...

Continued from page 1

Clooney's star-studded fundraiser, uniting Washington power and Hollywood glamour, was the most lucrative single day that Obama has spent piling up cash so far in his race to the November election against Republican foe Mitt Romney.

Around 150 guests paid \$40,000 a ticket to get into the exclusive soiree, the latest in a

string of big money events as Obama builds an expensive campaign machine for his reelection and buys top dollar advertising slots.

The guest list included A-listers from Barbra Streisand and Robert Downey Jr. to Jack Black, Billy Crystal, Maguire, Salma Hayek, and fashion designer Diane Von Furstenberg.

UN: International manhunt has Kony on the run

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Joseph Kony, one of the world's most wanted men, is having to move nearly every day as hunters close in on the African guerrilla leader who may now be in Darfur, a top UN envoy said yesterday.

Defectors have also reported that the Lord's Resistance Army chief is becoming increasingly unstable, Abou Moussa, UN special representative for Central Africa, told reporters.

Kony, who launched his rebellion in Uganda 25 years ago, is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and his global notoriety increased this year through an internet video that has been watched tens of millions of times.

"Contrary to what Kony used to do -- that he would stay one month, two months on the ground -- he is now moving almost every other day which means the pressure is mounting on him," said Moussa.

"He is moving and they have found traces of where he has settled. People who have defected have provided information on his state of mind," added the envoy.

Kony is no longer "very very stable," said Moussa, head of the UN Regional Office for

Central Africa, who is helping to coordinate the international hunt and get more governments to try to trap Kony.

A multi-national force, led by Uganda and helped by 100 US Special Forces, has been chasing Kony in Uganda, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. The wanted guerrilla is believed to have a dwindling band of followers, estimated to number between 200 and 500 fighters.

Troops from South Sudan have however been diverted by their country's growing showdown with Sudan, however, while in DR Congo, government forces are hunting another wanted war criminal, Bosco Ntaganda, Moussa said.

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Pakistan seizes heroin haul worth \$13.75 mln

KARACHI (AFP) - Pakistan said Friday it had seized one of its largest ever hauls of heroin, impounding 125 kilograms (275 pounds) of the narcotic worth an estimated \$13.75 million on the international market.

The seizure is the largest since May last year when the authorities seized 375 kilograms of the drug.

The authorities examined a refrigerated container at Karachi port and found bags of heroin concealed by solution tape and balloons.

"All 5,400 bags were de-stuffed and thoroughly examined and we found 830 pouches each weighing between 145 grams to 155 grams. The total weight of heroin was 125 kilograms," Babar Ali Shah, a customs official told reporters. "We have arrested the clearing agent and one of his employees," Shah said.

Officials said the heroin was smuggled from neighbouring Afghanistan through Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan has more than four million drug addicts in a population of nearly 180 million, according to figures compiled by the ANF, which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting drug offences.

Opium poppy is grown on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, a region infamous for Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked strongholds, and branded the most dangerous place in the world for Americans by US President Barack Obama.

Pakistan has a 2,500-kilometre (1,560-mile) porous border with Afghanistan, which supplies 90 percent of the world's opium used to make heroin.

Haiti sex assault victim testifies in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO (AFP) - A young Haitian man who accused Uruguayan troops serving as UN peacekeepers in Haiti of sexually assaulting him last year on Thursday testified in Montevideo before a judge investigating the case.

The scandal erupted in September 2011 after cell phone video images circulated on the Internet showing

the UN peacekeepers sexually assaulting the man, then 18, in the southern Haitian town of Port-Salut.

Six Uruguayan marines were indicted last year on charges of disobeying orders and dereliction of duty. The first charge is punishable by four months to four years of prison, and the second by up to three years in prison.

The alleged victim Jhony Jean gave his deposition to Alejandro Guido, the judge overseeing the investigation. Jean was accompanied by two US attorneys, his mother and a Haitian government representative.

He also came with a translator, as he only speaks Creole.

"The entire investigation is

based on a very brief, fragmented film of poor quality filmed on a cell phone and the testimony of this young Haitian," said Raul Oxandarabat, spokesman for Uruguay's supreme court.

Jean's attorneys said they had proof that the assault took place.

"Jhony was examined by doctors. They said he had

been assaulted, and that evidence will be presented in this case," Marger said, adding that some evidence had been given to the investigating judge said one of the lawyers, Edwin Marger.

The scandal has prompted protests outside the Uruguayan base at Port-Salut to demand the withdrawal of the UN forces.

Health & Living

US experts urge approval of first AIDS prevention pill



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US health advisors on Thursday urged regulators to approve Truvada, made by Gilead Sciences, as the first preventive pill against HIV/AIDS instead of just as a treatment for infected people.

The Food and Drug Administration is not bound by the recommendations of its expert panel, but it usually follows the experts' advice. A final decision by the FDA is expected in mid-June.

The vote came after a

marathon 11-hour panel meeting in which about three dozen health care providers voiced concerns about how the pill could boost risky behaviors and may lead to a drug resistant strain of HIV.

The main set of data considered came from the iPrEx HIV Prevention Study, carried out from July 2007 to December 2009 in six countries -- Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

The study was conducted among 2,499 men who were sexually active with other men but were not infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

The panel's nod came in response to the pharmaceutical company's request for a supplemental new drug application to market it for prevention purposes.

But critics noted that the pill is costly -- up to \$14,000 per year -- and could offer a false sense of protection, leading to a spike in unsafe sex and a

new surge in AIDS cases.

Truvada is currently available as a treatment for people with HIV in combination with other anti-retroviral drugs and was FDA approved in 2004.

There also remains some controversy about which populations would benefit, as trials in women have shown feeble results, possibly due to poor adherence to the regimen.

The method of taking a drug ahead of potential exposure to HIV is called pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

After the study's publication in the New England Journal of Medicine, some experts hailed the results as game-changing and the first demonstration that an already-approved oral drug could decrease the likelihood of HIV infections.

However, others have warned of the risks of depending on people -- particularly those who may be already engaged in careless behaviors -- to take a daily pill.

Health Tip: Eat Less

-- Your parents may have appreciated when you took a lot of food and left a clean plate, but experts say that's no way to maintain a healthy weight.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers these suggestions to help prevent overeating:

- Use small plates and glasses.
- Take small bites and chew your food slowly, taking time to savor it.
- Don't indulge in more than one helping.
- Before you dig into your main course, fill yourself up with a green, leafy salad or some vegetable soup.

Croatia's bishops say fertility bill 'morally unacceptable'

ZAGREB (AFP) - Croatia's influential Catholic Church on Friday branded "morally and legally unacceptable" a bill aimed at making it easier for couples facing one of Europe's most rigid reproduction laws to have children.

"Our duty is to warn public on the moral and legal unacceptability of the intentions of the proposed law on medically-assisted fertilisation to legalise freezing of human embryos," Croatian bishops said in a statement.

They also attacked the bill's provision allowing women without partners to undergo fertility treatment.

It "deprives children born through such procedures of the right to have both parents" and

makes them a "particularly vulnerable and discriminated group," the statement said.

"Freezing of embryos is violation of the constitutional right to life," the bishops said and called lawmakers, notably Catholics, not to back such "morally and legally harmful laws."

The bill, compiled by the country's new centre-left government, has provoked lively public debate.

The current fertility law, adopted in 2009 despite strong criticism from parents' groups and liberal parties, is seen as the then ruling conservatives' concession to the Church, which holds that life starts at the moment of conception.

It bans the freezing of embryos and allows fertilisation of only three eggs per attempt.

The remaining eggs harvested during the procedure are frozen for later use, but couples say this drastically reduces their chances of a positive outcome.

The legislation forced many Croatian couples with fertility problems to seek medical help abroad.

Nearly 90 percent of Croatia's 4.2 million people are Roman Catholics.

Preventable diseases still mowing down children: study



PARIS (AFP) - Preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria claimed the lives of nearly five million children younger than five in 2010, a paper in The Lancet medical journal said Friday.

A total 7.6 million children died in the first five years of their life that year, the authors said, and warned the world was not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds by 2015.

Two in every five deaths occurred within the first 28 days of life.

"Preterm birth is now the second leading cause of child death after pneumonia, and is likely to become the top cause

of death by 2015 unless rapid scale-up of available interventions occurs," said the report.

Five countries -- India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, and China -- contributed to almost half the deaths of children younger than five.

While child deaths have declined by about two million or 26 percent since 2000, when the goal was set, this was not enough, the authors said.

The attainment of the goal "is possible only if life-saving maternal, newborn, and child health interventions are rapidly scaled up in high-burden regions and countries and across major causes in the next few years."

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Kenyan ranches relocating rhinos in fear of poachers



file photo - Rhino poaching

NAIROBI (AFP) - Claus Mortensen is a private Kenyan rancher with a passion -- endangered rhinos -- and now a mission: to save his herd from slaughter by ruthless poachers who sell their horns to Asia, where they are prized as a miracle drug.

But costs are spiralling for Mortensen and other ranchers as they battle to keep one step ahead of the hunters and guarantee the survival of rhinos, and elephants, on their expansive, remote reserves.

"Seeing a dead rhino is terrible," said Mortensen, who

runs Mugie ranch, around 300 kilometres (186 miles) north of the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Twenty rhinos were reintroduced to the 18,000-hectare (44,000-acre) sanctuary in 2004. Four years later, poachers struck, killing one animal and hacking off its horns.

"It happened again and again," said Mortensen, explaining that his and other ranchers' work has changed from basic conservation to intelligence gathering operations aimed at deterring poachers.

And the change has pushed up bills: private ranchers have had to triple the number of rangers working their reserves and it now costs an average \$1,200 (900 euros) a month, up from \$150, to keep one rhino alive.

"All night, all day... you

have your telephone on, radio on, next to your bed and when somebody calls your heart stops beating," Mortensen said.

Kenya, which has the world's third largest rhino population -- around 600 black and 300 white rhinos, is constantly battling poachers. In 2009, it suffered its worst year for rhino poaching when 12 black and six white rhinos were killed.

The illegal trade is driven by the voracious Asian and Middle Eastern demand for the animals' horns for use in traditional medicines for fevers, convulsions and as an

aphrodisiac.

-- Legal market for illegal horns --

The horns mainly contain keratin -- a substance also found in animal hooves, human nails and hair -- and despite having no medicinal value, demand continues to rise.

A kilo (2.2 pounds) of rhino horn can cost as much as \$60,000 (45,000 euros), according to KWS estimates.

The KWS has transferred 11 of Mugie's rhinos to a park near the shores of Lake Victoria, and will relocate the rest to another more secure private ranch.

Parts of Mt Fuji 'could collapse' if fault shifts



TOKYO (AFP) - Parts of Japan's Mount Fuji, a national symbol and key tourist attraction, could collapse if a newly-discovered faultline under the mountain shifts, a government-commissioned report has warned.

A three-year study by seismologists discovered a previously unknown active fault underneath the mountain, which sits around 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Tokyo.

"It's possible that (parts of) the mountain could collapse with mudslides flowing to Gotemba," a city between the mountain and the Pacific, said Yasuhiro Yoshida, director for earthquake investigation at the science ministry.

A team of researchers, led by academics from the University of Tokyo, fired simulated seismic waves at the mountain, which revealed a fault that was theoretically capable of gener-

ating an earthquake of up to magnitude seven.

The team said they believed the fault moved some time in the last million years, although it was not clear when.

Yoshida said local geography showed Mount Fuji experienced major mudslides nearly 3,000 years ago, but that more studies are required to determine how the fault could affect potential volcanic activity, and vice versa.

The area around the mountain, an almost perfect volcanic cone that is much admired for its beauty, is known for having frequent earthquakes and numerous fault lines, even for quake-prone Japan.

Japan has been on heightened alert for possible quakes and other natural hazards since the 9.0 magnitude quake and the tsunami of March 2011 killed 19,000 people and sparked a nuclear emergency at Fukushima.



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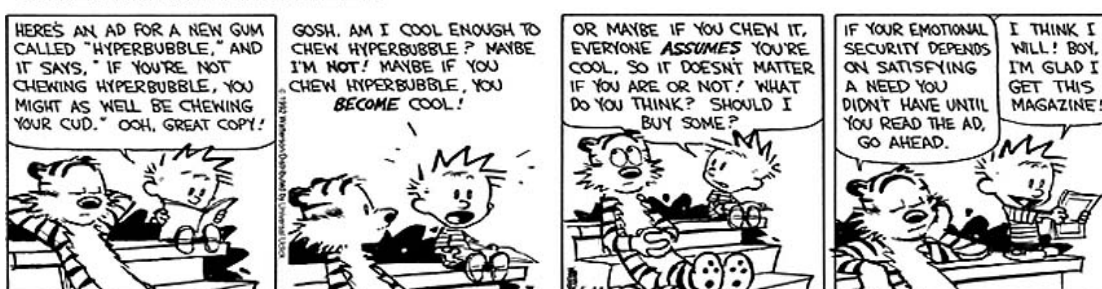
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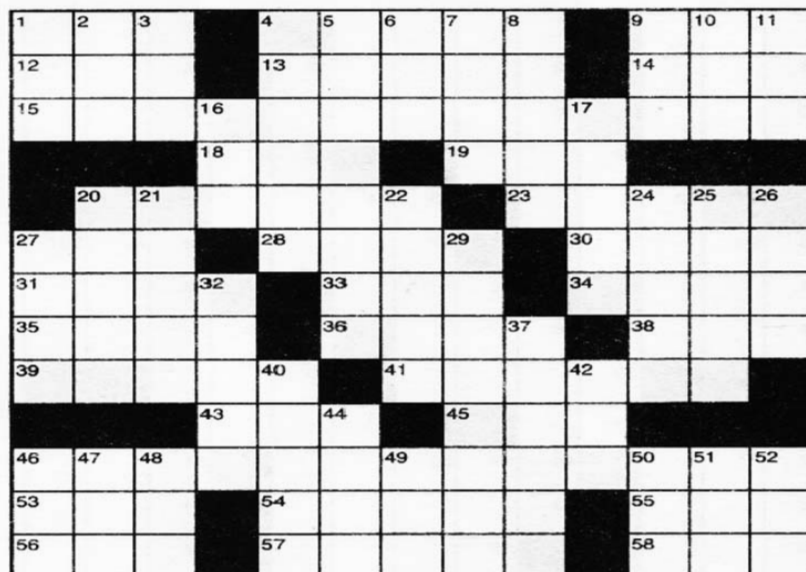
1. "Top ____"
4. Remove a lid
9. Timetable abbr.
12. Follower (suffix)
13. Respectful reply (2 wds.)
14. Like Abner Yokum
15. Strange qualities
18. Distress call
19. Compass pt.
20. Pain reliever brand
23. Florida Marlins' home
27. Cain's mom
28. Preserve
30. Cut open
31. Senior citizens' org.
33. "Law & Order: ____"
34. Sardine holders
35. "____ Zapata!"
36. Expression
38. Teacher's group (abbr.)
39. "Maria ____"
41. Caused public disorder
43. "____ declare!" (2 wds.)
45. It follows Mon.
46. Unexpected plane stop (2 wds.)
53. Loud thud
54. Decimal ____

55. Branch
56. Tax agcy.
57. Ringlet
58. Singer Davis

DOWN

1. With it, slangily
2. Lunched
3. Detective, informally
4. Open
5. Loudest
6. 1860 alliance (abbr.)
7. Freshens
8. Crystal
9. Inventor Whitney
10. Dead heat
11. Roker and Capone
16. South of Can.
17. Chubby Checker's dance
20. Be of use to
21. Gall
22. ____ a dull moment
24. Certain dress style (hyph.)
25. Dug for coal
26. "____ boy!" (2 wds.)
27. Gutter locale
29. Early colonists
32. Chaos
37. Gets into the

- saddle
40. Deft
42. Danson of "Cheers"
44. Skunk's secret weapon
46. "Without a Trace" org.
47. Paddle's kin
48. Hotel offerings (abbr.)
49. Big fib
50. "I think, therefore ____" (2 wds.)
51. Gun lobby (abbr.)
52. Detroit automaker, for short



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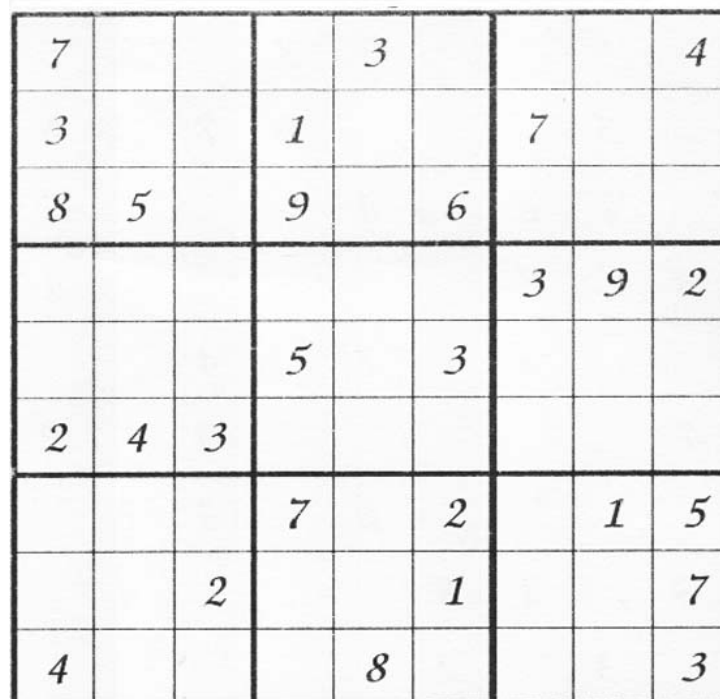
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SOLUTION

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4	9	8	1	7	2	6	5	3
5	1	7	2	6	4	8	9	3
9	4	5	6	1	8	7	2	3
8	7	1	2	5	4	9	6	3
2	6	4	9	7	5	8	1	3
1	2	7	9	4	6	5	8	3
6	8	4	7	5	1	9	2	3
7	5	9	8	2	6	1	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Aruba Central Bank releases Consumer Confidence Survey for May 2012

ORANJESTAD -- During the period of March 26 through April 12, 2012, the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) conducted the first quarterly Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS). The principle aim of the CCS is to provide the CBA with valuable information for its macro-economic analyses and forecasts, as well as for determining the sentiments of Aruban consumers, which will further the CBA's understanding of economic developments. The CCS consisted of 20 short multiple-choice questions on the population's opinion of and expectation on the state of the Aruban economy and on its spending habit.

The CCS approached 400 persons covering different parts of Aruba. The preliminary results for the first quarter of 2012 show that 34.0 percent of respondents felt that their personal financial position had worsened when compared to 6 months ago. On the other hand,

33.8 percent expected their personal financial position would improve in the next 6 months. Also, 57.8 percent stated Aruba's business and economic conditions deteriorated compared to 6 months ago, while 32.3 percent of respondents said that business and economic conditions would continue worsening in the next 6 months.

On job expectations, people believed that it was harder to find a job than 6 months ago (64.3 percent of respondents). In the next 6 months, it would either become harder (48.0 percent) or remain as difficult (24.3 percent).

Respondents pointed out that buying a car (64.0 percent), acquiring a major appliance (51.5 percent) and going on vacation (49.8 percent) were unsuitable at the time of the interview. Only 16.5 percent considered it appropriate to take out a loan and 13.8 percent believed it was suitable to take out a mortgage loan.

The CBA created a consumer confidence index to summarize the results of the CCS in a single indicator. The index varies between 90 and 110, where scores between 90-99 indicate a negative view of consumers. Scores between 101 and 110 show a positive consumer view. A score of 100 indicates that respondents reported no change in their view. The results show respondents had a negative view during the first quarter (index score of 96.2).

The CBA has scheduled the next CCS for the period of June 25 through July 06, 2012. You can download the complete presentation of the results from the CBA's website. For further information, please contact Ms. Elmelynn Croes (telephone: 5252230; email: e.croes@cbaruba.org) or Mr. Jonathan Upegui (telephone: 5252215; email: j.uegui@cbaruba.org) of the Research Department.

Eurozone faces stiff headwinds

PARIS (AFP) - The eurozone faced stiff headwinds yesterday, with deficits clouding growth, Greek membership at risk, Spanish banks in trouble and possible change of course hanging on talks between paymaster Germany and a new French president. EU forecasts showed the eurozone heading for only a slow recovery from recession later this year and still struggling with budget deficits, limiting the options of any government wanting to bolster growth.

Meanwhile Greece, the epicentre of the debt crisis, was in limbo as political leaders tried to form a government after voters Sunday rejected the tough

austerity policies agreed in exchange for a massive EU-IMF bailout deal.

Socialist leader Evangelos Venizelos, who backed the debt rescue plan as finance minister, has been tasked with forming a coalition by Saturday after the largest two parties failed, with new polls a distinct possibility.

Hopes for a breakthrough however were hit when a possible ally, the small Democratic Left party, said it would not join a government without fellow leftists Syriza, a party that opposes the terms of the 240 billion euro (\$311 billion) bailout which averted Greek bankruptcy.

Germany, the EU's strongest

economy, insisted yesterday that whatever the outcome of the talks, Athens must stick to the terms of the bailout accord.

"We want to keep the eurozone together. The future of Greece in the eurozone now lies in the hands of Greece," German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble appeared to suggest the eurozone could cope if Greece left, noting: "Europe won't sink that easily."

Whether Germany can hold the line on Greece may depend on relations with France, the second-biggest eurozone economy where an anti-austerity backlash in Sunday's presidential poll helped put Socialist Francois Hollande in office.

Hollande, who campaigned strongly for a much greater focus on growth, meets Merkel on Tuesday for an exchange on the crisis which could be crucial.



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Billions wiped off JP Morgan's stock value

NEW YORK (AFP) - JPMorgan Chase saw around \$11 billion wiped off its market value yesterday as investors punished the biggest US bank for massive trading losses.

JPMorgan, which had withstood the 2008 financial crisis, disclosed a \$2 billion derivatives trading loss after the markets closed Thursday, warning it could face another \$1 billion in losses in the second quarter due to market volatility.

"It's a disgrace," thundered Gregori Volokhine, a financial strategist at Meeschaert. "The banks continue to take risks that they don't manage."

"A trading loss can happen -- the problem is that chief executive Jamie Dimon and his bank are considered the best risk manager," Volokhine said.

He said the issue of the risky big trading bets "was totally known by JPMorgan management -- even by Dimon -- for a long time."

"It's worrying that this wasn't an accident: the breakdown came in the surveillance system... the mistake goes high

up," he said.

While analysts said that JPMorgan has the resources to absorb the losses -- the Wall Street bank estimates it will take in \$4 billion in profit for the current quarter -- they point to its blow to confidence on Wall Street.

With President Barack Obama's administration pushing the so-called "Volcker Rule," which would forbid banks from much of the trading of their own portfolios, "the timing could not have been worse," said big US bank Citigroup.

"It's clear now it's necessary to separate a firm's trading with its own assets, because there's the impression that banks are acting as if nothing has changed" since 2008, Volokhine said.

JPMorgan's shock losses "will likely impact all capital market-sensitive stocks due to increased concerns of a more restrictive Volcker rule," Citigroup said, warning that "it would severely impact liquidity in the markets."



Current as of: 05/11/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.75	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.77	192.49	193.29
Netherlands	EUR	228.45	230.54	232.86
Sweden	SEK	24.67	25.39	26.19
Denmark	DKK	30.05	30.77	31.57
Norway	NOK	29.44	30.16	30.96
Japan	JPY	220.77	222.79	225.03

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ADO	HEIR	SANE
LOMBARDO	SLAT	
ADD	THEFTS	
DAILY	FEES	
SAKE	LOGE	FLU
ARI	PILED	RAT
LEN	ASKS	BADE
PITS	IONE	
DOCILE	ANN	
IRON	NICKNAME	
BEAT	ETRE	LAS
SOLO	REED	PEP



YANGON : AFP photo shows Myanmar workers laying bricks for drying at a brick factory on the outskirts of Yangon on May 10, 2012. As Myanmar prepares for an economic resurgence following the end of decades of military rule, wide-eyed firms from all over Asia are competing for a piece of the potentially lucrative pie. With largely untapped natural resources, including minerals, metals and fossil fuels, and a tourism sector left in ruins by sanctions, Myanmar sparkles with opportunity.

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Paul McCartney and mariachis rock Mexico City



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - More than 100,000 people massed in the giant Zocalo plaza late Thursday for a free concert by Paul McCartney, who sent the crowd into a frenzy by performing "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" along with Mexican mariachis.

McCartney, who at one point waved a Mexican flag, tickled the crowd by introducing some of his songs in Spanish sprinkled with Mexican slang.

The crowd went crazy when McCartney, at the end of "Eleanor Rigby," blurted out the crude but popular phrase, "Viva Mexico, cabrones!" (Long Live Mexico, you bastards!)

The open-air concert in the iconic plaza was sponsored by the Mexico City's mayor's office for Mother's Day, which is celebrated locally on May 10.

McCartney congratulated all the Mexican mothers as well as his wife Nancy Shevell.

"This tune is precisely for all you mamacitas," he said in Spanish, again using slang to the public's great delight.

Fireworks lit the sky when McCartney let loose with "Live and Let Die."

The crowd sang along with many of the 40 songs the rock icon performed during the three-hour long con-

cert, especially with the Beatles classic "Hey Jude."

McCartney performed in the Zocalo two days after he gave a concert in the Azteca football stadium for a crowd of some 70,000 people.

Many of the fans camped out in the Zocalo since the night before to get a good spot for the concert.

Historic 'Beau Sancy' gem for sale next week



GENEVA- Switzerland : A model holds the Beau Sancy diamond during a Sotheby's auction press preview on May 10, 2012 in Geneva. The 35-carat pear-shaped diamond Marie de Medici wore at her coronation in 1610, one of the world's most famous gems, is to be auctioned in Geneva on May 15, 2012. Passed down through the royal families of France, England, Prussia and the Netherlands, the diamond has witnessed 400 years of European history. The stone -- which is expected to fetch 2 to 4 million US dollars (1,5 to 3 million EURO)-- gets its name from diamond collector Nicolas Harley de Sancy, who bought it in Constantinople, now Istanbul, in the late 16th century.

AFP PHOTO

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Rihanna briefly hospitalized after New York party

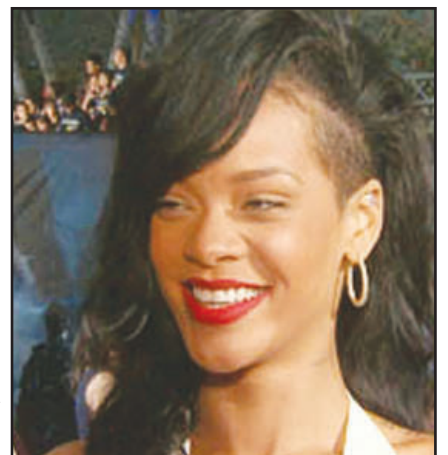
NEW YORK (AFP) - Pop star Rihanna was briefly hospitalized in the US this week and posted a picture on Twitter showing her arm hooked up to an intravenous drip, with media reports citing "exhaustion" and "dehydration."

Several entertainment news

websites reported Wednesday that the Barbados-born singer was admitted after attending the Met Costume Ball in New York on Monday night. She had for several days told her Twitter followers that she had been feeling sick.

But when the updates stopped on Tuesday one fan who tweeted Rihanna to ask what was going on prompted the singer to post the picture which showed her trademark long black fake nails and a fluids drip taped up to her arm.

The mediatakeout.com website reported that Rihanna had suffered exhaustion and dehydration after a night of hard partying at the Met, but



said she was now "doing better" and had flown back to her home in Los Angeles.

The New York Post, meanwhile, quoted an anonymous source as saying the singer had become sick from "excessive partying and not slowing down."



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Catholic traditionalists divided over giving in to Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - A controversial group of Catholic traditionalists, who broke with Rome in the 1980s, is deeply divided over recent moves to reach a deal with the Vatican.

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said last month the Holy See had received an "encouraging" response from the Society of Saint Pius X on its proposals for reconciliation.

But the traditionalist Catholic Riposte website on Friday published an exchange of letters between Bishop Bernard Fellay, who heads the Society of Saint Pius X, and three others bishops belonging to the group who warn against moves to reunite with the Vatican.

The three include British bishop Richard Williamson who once denied the existence of the Holocaust.

"Please be careful, you are leading the fraternity to a point of no return, to a deep division from which there will be no way back, and if you reach an agreement (with the Vatican) to strong destructive influences which it will not survive," the bishops told Fellay.

"The thinking of the current pope is heavily influenced by subjectivity... Religion is made subject to the modern world.

How can we believe that a practical deal will solve such a problem?" they added.

Fellay, for his part, told the bishops that while the Church is "horribly disfigured" it remains that "of Jesus Christ" whose base is in Rome.

The group has traditionally been strongly opposed to liberal reforms in the Catholic Church imposed by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s and has been dogged by accusations of anti-Semitism and far-right political allegiances.

Pope Benedict XVI came under heavy criticism in 2009 when he lifted an excommunication order against Williamson in a bid to ease the way towards a return of the Society to the papal fold.

Benedict has made the reintegration of the Society a priority of his pontificate after the failure of negotiations in the 1980s that he had personally handled with the group's founder, French archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

The Society is based in Switzerland and has its strongest presence in France and Germany. It has an estimated 550 priests among its members.

German weekly Der Spiegel last month said the Society was no longer demanding that the Holy See overturn the Vatican II reforms and was content with noting simply that there were disagreements with Rome over some aspects of dogma.

Earliest Mayan calendar shows no hint of 'world end'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The earliest known Mayan calendar has been found in an ancient house in Guatemala and it offers no hint that the world's end is imminent.

Rather, the painted room in the residential complex at Xultun was likely the place where the town scribe kept records, scrawling computations on the walls in an effort to find "harmony between sky events and sacred rituals," said the study in the journal Science.

The hieroglyphs date back to the ninth century, making them hundreds of years older than the calendars in the Maya Codices, which were recorded in bark-paper books from 1300 to 1521.

Some appear to be the 365-day solar calendar, the 584-day cycle of the planet Venus and the 780-day cycle of Mars, said archaeologist William Saturno of Boston University, who led the exploration and excavation.

According to Saturno, the

writing looks like someone's attempt to sort out a very long math problem, as if on a blackboard.

Furthermore, there is no sign that the much-hyped myth that the Mayan calendar would end in 2012, and with it the world, has any bearing in reality.

All that ended in 2012 was one of its calendar cycles, said co-author Anthony Aveni, professor of astronomy and anthropology at Colgate University.

"It's like the odometer of a car, with the Maya calendar rolling over from the 120,000s to 130,000," said Aveni.

"The car gets a step closer to the junkyard as the numbers turn over; the Maya just start over," he added.

"The most exciting point is that we now see that the Maya were making such computations hundreds of years -- and in places other than books -- before they recorded them in the Codices."

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EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

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Netherlands nearly men seek Euro deliverance



EURO 1988 CHAMPIONS - The Netherlands



Euro Cup 1988 topmost Scorer was Marco Van Basten, with his prolific goal scoring ability was the best player of the tournament.

THE HAGUE (AFP) - World football's perennial bridesmaids, the Netherlands, will be hoping that Euro 2012 is the tournament at which they end their 24-year wait for a major title.

Making the latter stages of tournaments has never been a problem for the nation that has given the world Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten, Dennis Bergkamp and Total Football.

Beaten World Cup finalists in 1974, 1978 and 2010, they have reached the semi-finals at the European Championship three times since they last lifted the trophy in 1988, only to fall

before the final on each occasion.

The Dutch side that competed at Euro 2008 were the sensation of the group phase, beating Italy (3-0) and France (4-1) in scintillating fashion, but they went out timidly to Russia in the last eight.

In a bid to address the country's traditional football failings, coach Bert van Marwijk turned the team that went to the 2010 World Cup into a more dogged and pragmatic outfit.

It was enough to take them to the final -- and an extra-time defeat at the hands of Spain -- but the team were disowned by

Cruyff, who accused them of betraying their footballing heritage.

Nobody could accuse the Netherlands of being boring on the road to Poland and the Ukraine.

With 37 goals in 10 matches they were the top scorers in qualifying, while their 11-0 annihilation of San Marino last September was the biggest victory in the country's history.

Klaas-Jan Huntelaar topped the scoring charts in qualifying with 12 goals and he has also been in sensational form for club side Schalke, plundering 29 goals to win Kicker magazine's award for the Bundesliga's top marksman.

Robin van Persie played second-fiddle to Huntelaar in qualifying but over the past 18 months he has belatedly emerged as one of the world's top strikers, netting 30 goals for Arsenal this season and being crowned the PFA Players' Player of the Year.

There have been mixed results in recent friendlies, with a 0-0 draw against Switzerland in November followed by a 3-0 humbling at the hands of Germany in Hamburg a few days later.

Key players, including van Persie, were missing for the Germany game, however, and there was encouragement to be found in February's 3-2 defeat of England at Wembley, where Arjen Robben scored a fine brace.

With Robben fit and firing for Bayern Munich, van Marwijk has plenty of options in attack but Wesley Sneijder -- talisman of the World Cup campaign -- has endured an injury-plagued season for Inter Milan, making just 16 league starts.

The Netherlands match with old rivals Germany in Kharkiv

on June 13 promises to be the big match in Group B but van Marwijk says his players cannot afford to look beyond their opening game against the Danes four days earlier.

The game against Portugal will also revive memories of "The Battle of Nuremberg" in the 2006 World Cup, which saw an unprecedented 16 yellow cards awarded.

But van Marwijk said: "I only look at the first match. For me the first match is the most important. At the World Cup (in 2010), it was similar: we

also played the first match against Denmark (which the Netherlands won 2-0), and now we will again.

"So that will be exactly the same. We just have to win it."

The weight of history is nothing new for the Netherlands, and nor is the burden of expectation.

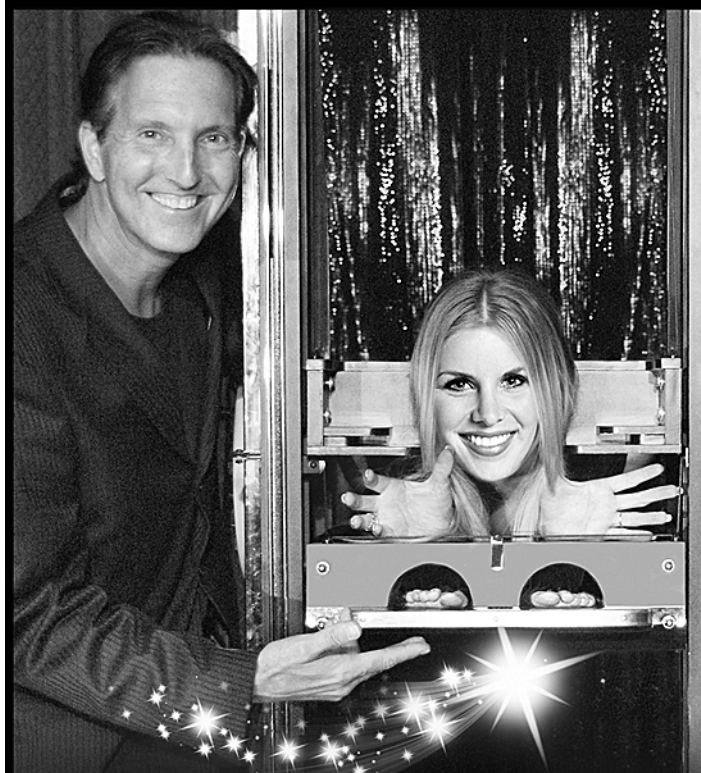
As ever, the quality in their squad is undeniable but only by prevailing in the final on July 1 can the Dutch emerge from the shadow of their glorious predecessors.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

History of Aruban athletes in Olympic Games, Part II

This article is a continuation of a previous article presented several days ago recounting a bit of the history of Aruban athletes who in the past participated in Olympic Games representing the Dutch Antilles. In this article we have some answers to questions we asked former athletes who had participated in Olympic Games of yester years.

Evelyn Farrel is one of those athletes who participated in the 100m and 200m athletics sport in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Evelyn Farrel has held the record sprint for the past 28 years as winner in the Antilles and Aruba 100m sprint.

1. What is it like to be a representative of Aruba in Olympic Games? Farrel: It was and still is a great honor to represent your country and the Antilles in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

2. What was your most memorable moment in the Olympic Games in which you participated? Farrel: The most memorable moment for me was when 30 athletes who went in 1984, I was chosen to be the flag bearer for the Dutch Antilles for the welcome ceremony of our delegation which was held in the Olympic Villa in Los Angeles.

3. What advice do you have for young athletes preparing for the 2012 London Olympic Games? Farrel: When you enter the Olympic Stadium, be proud of your self and of your country, and always remember that this is a great accomplishment for you, for your country and for your family. Believe...I CAN do this, YOU can, WE can.

The second athlete to respond to our questions was Esther Croes. Esther is a synchronized swimmer, duet with Nicole Hoevertsz in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

1. What is it like for someone to represent Aruba in Olympic Games? Esther: It is a great honor to represent your country in such a major competition. All competitions are important, but the Olympic Games have something magical about it. The entire world is watching and everyone knows the value that these Games have. Although we did not go with the ambition to win a medal, the simple fact that at that time we were the best of the best that were chosen to go gave us pride. It was like getting something back for all the hours of training for the event; especially in view of the primitive facilities in which we



trained back in those days.

2. What was your most memorable moment during the Olympic Games in terms of your participation? Esther: The opening ceremony, besides being on my 18th birthday, it was so emotional to just walk into the Stadium with all those people applauding for everyone!

3. What advice do you have for young athletes preparing for the 2012 London Olympic Games? Esther: Give it all you have, sacrifice what you can, be sure to do your utmost, especially during the moments of the competition. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and you cannot compare it to any other type of competition!

The third athlete to respond to our questions is Lucien Dirksz. Dirksz is a Cyclist who rode in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games in Spain.

1. What was it like to represent Aruba in the Olympic Games? Dirksz: Run dressed in an Aruban uniform, representing our island against all other countries and to demonstrate what Aruba can do in an international competition was simply great. Along with competing, being a role model for other Aruban athletes and gaining experience was also important to me.

2. What was your most memorable moment during the Olympic Games in which you

participated? Dirksz: Stepping into the Stadium and feeling the opening ceremony live. Walking with the Aruban flag gives a special sensation, a sense of great pride personally and for my country, realizing that the whole world is watching.

3. What advice do you have for young athletes preparing for the 2012 London Olympic Games? Dirksz: Prepare well mentally, remember that you are going to compete in something very great, the greatest competition in the world and on the maximum level. Don't allow any athlete to intimidate you. Learn to give value and respect to fellow competitors. Always remember that you too can break your personal record.

The final athlete to respond to our questions of the past was Roswitha Lopez. Lopez was a synchronized swimmer who did a solo and duet with Yvette Thuis in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games in South Korea.

1. What is it like for someone to represent Aruba at the Olympic Games? Roswitha: In the last years I have begun to realize more and more how important it is to be able to say that I represented Aruba at Olympic Games. Especially people in America, when you mention to them that you were an Olympian they develop a special admiration for you. And, they feel honored that

they were able to meet an Olympic athlete. This is especially because in America it is not very common that you meet an Olympic athlete. It is important that for the rest of your life you continue to be an ambassador of your country...hence, long after the Olympic Games my work as ambassador for Aruba continues, and never really ends.

2. What was the most memorable moment for you of the Olympic Games in which you competed? Roswitha: The moment of walking into the Stadium at the end of the Olympic Games. The music, the dancing, the athletes from all over the world so happy and contented and relaxed because they competed and reached so far...the fact that there were no barriers, nor political or any other. Everyone in harmony with each other because of sports. The theme song of the Olympic Games as well as Whitney Houston's song written for the Seoul Olympic Games still gives me goose bumps to this day!

3. What advice do you have for young people preparing for the 2012 London Olympic Games? Roswitha: Prepare the very best possible so you can be proud of your self for ever and so as not to have any regrets later on. Put every thing else aside and dedicate 100% to your sport.

Also, as soon as you get to London, look around and make acquaintance with as many people as you can (athletes and coaches): they may become friends for life. Be prepared to take many pictures, take a book along for athletes to autograph for you, capture as much as you can on film as well, these movies will become real keepsakes later on. Remember the Olympic Games will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for you, so be careful not to waste the experience.

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Defending champion Djokovic out of Madrid Masters, vows no return to blue clay



Serbian Novak Djokovic returns a shot to Serbian Janko Tipsarevic.

MADRID (AFP) - World number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic crashed out of the Madrid Masters on Friday, vowing never to return to play on the tournament's controversial blue clay.

Djokovic lost 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 to Serbian compatriot Janko Tipsarevic, his quarter-final defeat coming a day after world number two Rafael Nadal had lost to fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in the third round.

"I want to forget this week as soon as possible and move

on to the real clay courts," said the top seed, who beat Nadal a year ago for the trophy.

"They can do what they like, I won't be here next year if this clay stays."

Nadal also insisted on Thursday that he, too, would not play the Madrid tournament if the blue clay remains in place in 2013.

Earlier on Friday, tournament supremo Ion Tiriac had been forced to apologise for the anger felt by the players towards the surface.

"The court is slippery and I apologise," said the former

Davis Cup player.

"We wanted to make sure that we had no player injuries, no ankle problems. As a result, the court experts rolled the base with too much pressure. When the blue sand was put on top it was unable to meld with the base, creating the slip-page."

But Tiriac said that after striking a maintenance deal with the city of Madrid, the blue courts will remain in place year-round at the Caja Magica and will eventually be as comfortable to play on as traditional red clay.

Djokovic saved three match points in the penultimate game against Tipsarevic on Friday - the first two with aces -- as he held on for 3-5.

But Tipsarevic came through for the upset on his fourth chance a game later as Djokovic lifted a backhand out.

"Janko played a great match. It was one of his best events. I hope he can go all the way. I missed chances in opening games on return," added Djokovic.

"Any time I had a chance, he delivered his best shot. You

cannot predict the court here, anything is possible."

Tipsarevic will face Roger Federer or Spain's David Ferrer for a place in Sunday's final.

Federer, the 16-time Grand Slam champion, could move to second in the world behind Djokovic should he win the title.

Tomas Berdych brought Verdasco crashing back to earth as the sixth seed produced a 6-1, 6-2 quarter-final win over the Madrid-born 15th seed.

The Czech will next play Argentine 10th seed Juan Martin del Potro, who put out

Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-3, 6-4, just a week after winning the title in Estoril.

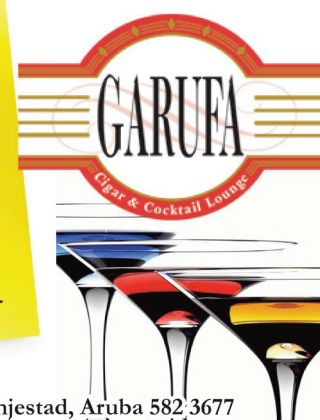
Berdych will be out for revenge after losing to Del Potro in their last meeting indoors in Rotterdam in February.

"It's the business end of the tournament with two more possible matches to come," said former Wimbledon finalist Berdych.

Verdasco refused to blame the court conditions for his sudden loss of form.

"I'm not complaining at all about the court. For me it's no problem, it was slippery for everyone," he said.

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